

I would like to submit my strong opposition to the proposed 'broadcast flag' rule. I cannot see how the ability to record broadcast television will affect a broadcaster's ability to make a profit. The cassette recorder did not stop radio, the VCR did not bankrupt film producers. Why should this case be any different.

The argument that broadcasters will not want to offer high-quality programming without such a flag is ridiculous. Perhaps advertising will not play as large a role as it does currently, perhaps new business models will need to be created, but the idea that we should not allow every person to keep what is freely given away (through broadcasts) is flawed. We have seen it in the radio and film industries, how allowing free dissemination of broadcast programming actually contributes to the health of these industries.

Look at how people still buy television shows when they are released on DVD or video cassette, even though PVRs and the Internet have made the same material easily accessible. Look at how people still buy albums, which can be easily recorded in their entirety during certain radio programs.

Rather than benefitting the broadcast industry, a 'no-copy' flag would inevitably harm it, by limiting what a person can do with content, it simply makes it less accessible, and therefore less valuable.